

The Cruiser Fleet Handbook



Rutland Sailing Club Ltd

Gibbett Lane

Edith Weston

Nr Oakham

LE15 8HJ

01780 720292

www.rutlandsc.co.uk

sailing@rutlandsc.co.uk

Welcome To Rutland Sailing Club Cruiser Fleet

Rutland Water

Rutland Water is one of the largest man-made lakes in Western Europe. It comprises some three thousand acres of water and lies roughly in the shape of a horseshoe. It is divided by the Hambleton Peninsula and thus creates two linked stretches of water, each about five miles long. The total shoreline is slightly more than twenty-two miles with a dam at its north eastern end. The reservoir is owned and operated by Anglian Water.

Rutland Sailing Club Ltd (RSC)

As one of the leading inland sailing clubs in the U.K. It's objectives are to provide members with first class sailing, training, on-shore facilities and social activities as well as providing visiting classes and associations with international level open competitions which both contribute to the finances and improves the status of RSC in the world of sailing.

RSC is operated by a Main Council who are elected by the members, and responsible for directing the policies and operation of the Club.

The Flag Officers consist of :-

Commodore

Vice Commodore

Three Rear Commodores

They are supported by :-

An elected Treasurer and up to 10 elected Council Members

A Sailing Committee also made up of elected members produces an overall annual program of events and reports to the main council on all sailing and safety matters.

A set of Rules and Bylaws provide a framework by which the Club operates and copies of these may be obtained from the office.

There is an active social life for members of all ages, including discos, dinners and numerous other events.

The program of events are published and distributed to members via the main club newsletter and exclusively the cruiser fleet by the cruiser fleet newsletter.

Rutland Sailing Club offers excellent facilities for handicapped members and visitors including wheelchair access, toilets and easy access to boats.

Rutland Sailability is a branch of RYA Sailability and usually meet on a Thursday and Saturday morning to give the disabled access to sailing.

The bar and restaurant are open on Thursday & Friday evenings during summertime and every weekend (except xmas to new year).

The Chandlery provides a comprehensive service including repairs and general servicing for all types of boats. Rutland Sailing School offers many levels of tuition for RYA courses.

There is bunk bed accommodation for up to forty-two people at the clubhouse, contact the club office for further information on prices and availability.

Members are free to enter the Club grounds during office opening hours by the use of their security pass or at other times by obtaining a gate key from the office and to sail throughout the year, **between ½ half hour after sunrise and ½ hour before sunset.**

On telephoning the Club, a pre-recorded message will provide an up-to-date local weather report and other information.

The RSC website is regularly updated with information on forthcoming events.

RSC Staff

RSC has the following permanent members of staff:-

A Club Manager and administrative staff, who are responsible for the day to day operation and security.

A Sailing School Manager and staff operate the training facility.

A Boatswain and assistant operate every day of the week to maintain rescue and workboats, shore side equipment, moorings and grounds as well as providing a listening watch on VHF channel 37(M1).

The boatswain's workshop may be found at the eastern end of the site where a mechanical hoist and jet wash are available for members to service boats.

The Cruiser fleet

The Cruiser Fleet is one of the largest fleets within RSC and is represented by the **Cruiser Fleet Committee**. These are elected members of the fleet who meet regularly to manage the affairs of the fleet.

Fleet Committee consists of the following:-

Fleet Captain & Vice-Captain

Racing Secretary, Social Secretary, Fleet Secretary, and Editor.

Fleet Treasurer.

In this context the word **Cruiser** is taken to mean any cabin type or open day-boat with a weighted keel either fixed or retractable.

The Cruiser Fleet Newsletter is published regularly giving details of forthcoming events and articles of interest, and is paid for by annual voluntary subscription to the fleet fund.

.Boat/Car Identification

Cruiser owners must fix Annual Membership Number foils to the stern of their boats. Additional foils should also be attached to trailers .and the stern of tenders if you have one.

Boats or trailers without a current foil may be removed to a secure area.

In addition all cruisers kept on a mooring must display a disc showing their correct mooring allocation number.

Dry Sailed Boats kept on trailers are normally parked in the west creek cruiser park.

Car windscreen stickers are also issued by the office.

VHF Radios

Members with VHF radios, can communicate with other boats, the Club Office, the boatswain, ferryboat and safety boats, All use Channel 37 (M1).

Informal radio chat should be kept to a minimum and should switch to a working channel 6,8,72 or 77. All radios should be correctly licenced and operators must possess a VHF operating licence or be under the command of a licenced operator.

Safety

Lifejackets must be worn by all persons when sailing or on pontoons, these may be of the foam buoyancy aid design or automatic inflation.

Non-Auto inflation types are not permitted

It is recommended that small children wear lifejackets at all times when close to the water.

The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise. Moreover, every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat to sail on Rutland Water.

The club operate safety boats under the direct control of the duty coxswain during weekends and on Thursday evenings in the summertime, however they cannot be relied upon for all rescue / recovery situations which may occur. Safety boats also monitor radio traffic on channel 37(M1) Call-sign "Rutland 2 & 3"

If a boat is damaged or disabled it may be towed back to a Club jetty, but in bad conditions a safety boat crew can insist that the crew is taken ashore and the boat abandoned as other urgent actions may take priority. In these circumstances, the boat may be recovered when the conditions permit if the coxswain or boatswain considers it safe to do so.

The International Rules of the Road" must be observed at all times when sailing on Rutland Water.

Power normally gives way to sail – but sailing boats must keep at least 50metres clear of fishing boats or fishermen fishing from the shore.

Sailing boats must also keep clear of the motor vessel 'Rutland Belle' and club workboats as they have limited maneuverability.

It is in the interest of safety that all helms familiarize themselves with both International and local navigation rules.

Launching and Retrieval.

There are seven slipways - four with jetties. The Cruiser Fleet are encouraged to use slipways number 1 and 2 in the West Creek since they are conveniently located near to the main moorings and boat park. Members may use any slipway or jetty but should avoid obstructing the safety boats or racing keelboats at slipway 7.

Dinghies normally use slipways 3, 4 and 5.

A club tractor is available for members to launch and recover boats, however members using the tractor must first be given instruction by the Boatswain or his appointed deputy and their name be added to the list of approved tractor drivers.

Members are responsible for launching and retrieving their own boats but a list of volunteers who are approved tractor drivers may be contacted for assistance. A copy of this list can be obtained from the office.

The committee normally allocates one or two days at the each end of the season for members to assist one another in the launching and recovery process with a ferry and experienced tractor driver on hand, dates are usually published in the cruiser newsletter

The slipways must always be left clear and free from any obstructions and hawsers. The extension drawbar should be parked neatly at the side of slipway 1 after use.

Members can moor at any of the Club jetties except the side adjacent to a slipway. This is to allow other boats to launch and recover at any time.

Moorings

There are two mooring areas, the East Creek and West Creek. Most cruisers use the west creek however boats with a shallow draught and a maximum length of 20ft may use the east creek.

Boats cannot use the moorings between the beginning of January and the end of March. This is to prevent ice damage to boats or moorings and to allow time for annual maintenance.

Moorings are available to members on an annual tenancy basis.

Renewal is automatic as Club dues are paid. A deposit of £250.00 is required in the form of an interest free loan, repayable if the mooring is relinquished. As there may be a waiting list of those requiring

moorings, tenancies cannot be transferred or sub-let by members. If the tenant does not require a mooring for some time the office will arrange a sub-letting or loan, proceeds going to the Club.

The office on behalf of the Cruiser Fleet Committee manages the allocation and the administration of the moorings.

All members applying for a mooring will be expected to demonstrate their boat handling skills to the Boatswain or other member of the fleet committee before a mooring is allocated to them and during the mooring test members are required to maneuver their boat safely within the mooring area and pick up a mooring-buoy under sail. This is an attempt to reduce the number of accidents with boats and subsequent insurance claims.

Members may access moored boats using their own tenders which should be stored adjacent to jetties 1 and 2.

Trailers belonging to moored boats can be parked in the west creek boat park provided the relevant fee has been paid and a current membership foil is attached,

Parking places will be allocated by the fleet captain.

Members should fasten their boat to the mooring buoy by means of two strops, one at the top which should remain slack, and one on the ring below the buoy.

The Ferryboat

The Ferryboat is manned by volunteers who must carry an RYA Level 2 Power Boat Certificate and prove their competence to the Boatswain or other member of the committee before being allowed to become an approved ferry driver.

The Ferry is normally available from the ferry pontoon in the west creek.

It is operated by fleet members on a Rota basis on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays generally between 9:30 am and 5.00 pm and on Thursday evenings after 6pm) during the summer months.

The ferry is normally in radio contact on channel 37(M1)

Call-sign “ Joe’s Ferry”.

Limits of Sailing

Members may use all of the lake for sailing, except for the areas at the extreme western end of both North and South arms, marked by “Limit of Sailing” buoys and shown on the chart as limits of sailing. These areas are part of the protected wildlife sanctuary and therefore entry by sailing boats is not permitted.

Sailing is not allowed within fifty metres of the Dam or the Water Towers.

Members must not moor up to racing or other buoys not specified for the purpose.

Inboard or Outboard engines are not allowed on Rutland Water.

Electric Motors may be used on cruisers or tenders if required.

Members must not use sea-toilets or place any waste products into Rutland Water.

Anchoring is only permitted within Barnsdale Creek.

Members may use the jetties at the Whitwell Water Sports Centre but as a courtesy, should report to their office after landing.

Racing in the Cruiser Fleet

The Cruiser Fleet organizes racing for yachts with a handicap system (Portsmouth Yardstick) so that all boats can compete equally.

When racing, cruisers should fly a yellow flag at their stern.

The Cruiser Fleet racing is generally under the control of club race officer, but some series may have other arrangements (check with fleet captain or club office).

As a matter of courtesy cruising boats should keep clear of boats that are racing and well away from the start and finish lines of races that are in progress.

Anyone wishing to join in with the racing should sign-on in the club foyer before starting.

Times of races are published in the annual calendar of events which is obtainable from the office.

Accidental Damage

It is a rule of the Club that all accidents which occur on the water or club premises, must be reported and entered in the "INCIDENT BOOK" held in the club office irrespective of the extent of damage or injury caused, this is an important insurance requirement and may prevent a future repetition.

Size of Craft

There is a restriction on the size of sailing craft permitted on Rutland Water.

Maximum Overall Length on a mooring is 26 ft (7.9m) maximum displacement

2 Tonnes

Maximum Length Dry Sailed is 27 ft

Summary

We hope the rules and guidelines summarized in this booklet do not detract from your enjoyment of sailing on Rutland Water as these are mainly for your comfort and safety.

If you require further information or assistance, please contact either the club manager at the office, the boatswain, or any committee member who will always be willing to help you.

Good Sailing!

Rutland Water

